



National Park Service  
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Cabrillo National  
Monument

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## CABRILLO News Release

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### Old Point Loma Lighthouse and Assistant Keepers Quarters to Close for Fumigation

San Diego, California – Superintendent Tom Workman announced that the Old Point Loma Lighthouse and Assistant Keepers Quarters will be closed on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 8 and 9, 2009 to fumigate for termites. The 1855 Old Point Loma Lighthouse, one of the first eight lighthouses constructed on the West Coast, is part of Cabrillo National Monument, *San Diego's National Park*. The Assistant Keepers Quarters interpretive shelter, next door to the Old Point Loma Lighthouse, was built in 2004 to house the award-winning *Lighthouses of Point Loma* exhibit.

Evidence of termite activity was initially discovered during a routine building inspection by Acting Facilities Manager Jerry Baker and was confirmed during a termite inspection of all park buildings in June 2009. After considering other alternatives, a decision was made, in consultation with Erv Gasser, the National Park Service Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program Manager for the Pacific West Region, to fumigate the structures with Vikane gas.


Said Workman, "The National Park Service has been charged by the American people with caring for and preserving the magnificent natural and cultural resources at Cabrillo National Monument and preserving them, unimpaired, for the enjoyment of this and future generations. It is a responsibility that we take very seriously."

Cartwright Termite and Pest Control, Inc., of El Cajon, will place large tents over the lighthouse and Assistant Keepers Quarters and fumigate with Vikane gas on Tuesday, September 8. The Vikane gas will then be allowed to work for 24 hours, through Wednesday, September 9, when the tents will be removed and any remaining Vikane gas allowed to dissipate. A Cartwright Termite and Pest Control, Inc. inspector will then test the interiors of both buildings for any pockets of undissipated Vikane gas before the lighthouse and Assistant Keepers Quarters re-open. For safety reasons, no one may be allowed into the Old Point Loma Lighthouse or Assistant Keepers Quarters during the two-day fumigation process. The days of fumigation, Tuesday and Wednesday, were chosen to minimize the impact on park visitors.

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Continued Workman, “In consulting with Regional IPM Manager Gasser, we considered the available alternatives, but felt that treating these structures with Vikane gas would be the most effective and cost effective treatment. Vikane also should not have any impact on the historic artifacts in either building. The Old Point Loma Lighthouse is an internationally recognized icon, and is one of the most popular visitor destinations within Cabrillo National Monument. We recognize that any days we could have chosen for fumigation would prevent visitors from being able to enter. However, we tried to find days with lower visitation to try to affect the fewest number of people possible.”

Cabrillo National Monument, located on Point Loma at the south end of Catalina Boulevard, is open daily from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM. Public Transportation (#84 Bus) is available from Shelter Island to the Cabrillo National Monument visitor center, although weekend bus service to the park will be discontinued beginning Sunday, September 6, 2009. Visitors to Cabrillo National Monument are encouraged to go green and help reduce traffic congestion and “greenhouse gas” emissions, which contribute to global climate change, by taking public transportation. For additional information about Cabrillo National Monument, including this closure, call 619-557-5450, extension 0, tune in to Cabrillo National Monument’s Travelers Information Station on 890 AM radio or visit our web site at <http://www.nps.gov/cabr/>.

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